

REMARKS

Claims 11, 18-65 and 69 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-10, 12-17, and 66-68 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11, 18, 26, 38 and 69 have been amended.

Applicants, by canceling or amending any claims, make no admission as to the validity of any rejection made by the Examiner against any such claims. Applicants reserve the right to reassert any of the claims canceled and/or the original claim scope of any claim amended, in a continuing application.

Claims 11, 38 and 69 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 18 and 26 have been amended to address various formality issues. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

No new matter has been added.

In view of the following, further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

- I. At pages 2-3 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 20-35 and 41-65 are allowed, claims 11, 18, 19, 38-40, 66 and 69 are objected to, and claims 1-10, 12-17 and 66-68 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by either Vollkommer et al. or GB '750.*

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants submit that 1-10, 12-17 and 66-68 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 18, 26, 38 and 69 have been amended to overcome the various objections set forth in the Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the objections and rejections have been rendered moot. Therefore, Applicants submit that all

of the presently pending claims are allowable. In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections in the outstanding Official Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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